



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

February 21, 2013

MR. TOM NASH  
MUCKROCK NEWS  
DEPARTMENT MR 2875  
POST OFFICE BOX 55819  
BOSTON, MA 02205-5819

Subject: INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO  
DIRECTED-ENERGY WEAPONS

Dear Mr. Nash:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding individuals exposed to directed-energy weapons.

The FOIPA provides for access to Government records where the records sought are "reasonably described" [Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a(a)(3)(A)]. Your letter does not contain enough descriptive information to permit a search of our records. In accordance with Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 16.3(b), please provide us more specific information. Any information that would help locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort would be appreciated, such as complete names of individuals, organizations or events, dates and places of birth and the approximate time frame of the information sought, etc.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI Fact Sheet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure



# FBI FACT SHEET

- The primary function of the FBI is law enforcement.
- The FBI does not keep a file on every citizen of the United States.
- The FBI was not established until 1908 and we have very few records prior to the 1920s.
- **FBI files generally contain reports** of FBI investigations of a wide range of matters, including counterterrorism, counter-intelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white-collar crime, major thefts/violent crime, and applicants.
- **The FBI does not issue clearances or non-clearances for anyone other than its own personnel or persons having access to FBI facilities.** Background investigations for security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. Persons who received a clearance while in the military or employed with some other government agency should contact that entity. Most government agencies have websites which are accessible on the internet which have their contact information.
- **An identification record or "rap sheet" is NOT the same as an "FBI file."** It is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and related documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Record Request, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306. Along with a specific written request, the individual must submit a new full set of his/her fingerprints in order to locate the record, establish positive identification, and ensure that an individual's records are not disseminated to an unauthorized person. The fingerprint submission must include the subject's name, date of birth and place of birth. There is a required fee of \$18 for this service which must be submitted in the form of a money order or certified bank check made payable to the Treasury of the United States. A credit card payment option is also available. Forms for this option and additional directions may be obtained by accessing the FBI Web site at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/background\\_checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/background_checks).
- **The National Name Check Program (NNCP)** conducts a search of the FBI's Universal Index (UNI) to identify any information contained in FBI records that may be associated with an individual and provides the results of that search to the requesting Federal, State or local agency. For the NNCP, a name is searched in a multitude of combinations and phonetic spellings to ensure all records are located. The NNCP also searches for both "main" and "cross reference" files. A main file is an entry that carries the name corresponding to the subject of a file while a cross reference is merely a mention of an individual contained in a file. The results from a search of this magnitude can result in several "hits" and "idents" on an individual. In each instance where UNI has identified a name variation or reference, information must be reviewed to determine whether it is applicable to the individual in question.
- **The Record/Information Dissemination Section—Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOIPA)** searches for records and provides copies of FBI files relevant to a FOIPA request for information. FOIPA provides responsive documents to requesters seeking "reasonably described information." For a FOIPA search, the subject name, event, activity, or business is searched to determine whether there is an investigative file associated with the subject. This is called a "main file search" and differs from the **NNCP** search.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)